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Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers' Association

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IOWA PIONEER LAWMAKERS' ASSOCIATION

BY KENNETH E. COLTON

The Twenty-seventh biennial meeting of the Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers' Association convened in the Portrait Gallery of the Iowa State Department of History and Archives, March 6, 1941, at 9:45 A. M., with H. S. Van Alstine of Gilmore City, president of the association, presiding.

Following the invocation offered by Reverend Deane Chapman, pastor of Wesley Methodist Church, Des Moines, a brief address of greetings and welcome was tendered the association by Governor George A. Wilson.

Preceding the secretary's report, two fine musical selections "Bless This House," and "Lassie of Mine," were offered by the E. Carl White Quartette, with Walter Coones in charge. Secretary Ora Williams announced that from the list of approximately four hundred men eligible, replies were received from fifty-eight that they expected to attend the current session of the Pioneer Lawmakers' Association, remarking that the unexpected snow of the previous night undoubtedly has delayed some and prevented others from attending. Others were unexpectedly detained by business, as was Governor Dan Turner, who was originally scheduled for the afternoon program, and letters from others of interest to the members were received which could be read later.

At the conclusion of the secretary's report, President Van Alstine delivered his presidential address, commenting that "in considering what I was going to say this morning, my observation has been that most or many of the talks at this

part of the meeting have been with reference to Iowa legislation. When I set to thinking about Iowa legislation, past, present and prospective, it did seem to me that there were other matters, so many other matters that were of so much more import to the world and probably to us that I would just drift into matters that pertained to the broader interests of the country, and so what remarks I have to make will be more of that nature."

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

To be permitted the honor of presiding at this 27th biennal meeting of the Pioneer Lawmakers is a pleasure.

In our "way of life" the laws governing conduct, are shaped by discussion, and the meeting of the minds of our legislators; and that legislative mind is largely influenced by the background of education, environment and opinions of the folks at home. The state legislator lives at home and never loses direct and personal contact with the community he represents. Some of my friends who have moved on to Congress or other higher official place, have often told me that in their experience, no other official relationship equals the State General Assembly in cordial good fellowship and life long friendships.

In our later years, we who have had the privilege of serving in the state legislature realize more and more that the chief and most enduring personal asset is the wealth of new acquaintances and friends that it brings to each of us. Our legislative deeds and words are soon forgotten. Even the laws we may have introduced and succeeded in passing, however salutary or important they may be, are soon buried in the code, and our identity of authorship is safely hidden, unless perchance some cub reporter happened to tag a contentious bill with the authors name, such as, "Titus Amendment," or "Cosson Law." But the good fellowship of our legislative associations continues through all our days, as one of the most enduring satisfactions of our life.

Usage seems to have given the word "Pioneer" a broader application than our lexicographers. Webster defines it as "one who goes before to prepare the way for another." The Standard Dictionary as "one among the first to: explore a country; aid a movement; exploit an understanding." Doubtless many of the Iowa Legislators could thus qualify; but it is fortunate for some of us that the only requirement for membership in the organization is to live long enough. However, we of these later days can fairly plead our handicaps to opportunity for blazing new legislative trails. Our forbears who had the initiative and courage to crystallize the age old longing for liberty, into signing the Declaration of Independence, and firing the "shot heard round the

world,'' and adopting our constitution and its ''Bill of Rights,'' were the real Pioneers who charted the course of modern Democratic Statecraft.

These broad principles of self government have been followed by all of the sovereign states of our union, and by most other peoples who have adopted the democratic form of government.

The march of time has brought a succession of new ideas and inventions that have modified, and in some ways revolutionized our social and economic relationships. These changes have called for new laws, rules and regulations to meet the new conditions, and while our succeeding generations of state and national lawmakers have enacted volumes of statutory law, there has been little or no change in the basic principles of our constitution, as supplemented by the ''Bill of Rights'' amendments.

This background of orderly government, with its maximum of personal liberty under the law, has brought to our people a firm sense of established security in all constitutional and legal rights of person and of property.

Now that security is jeopardized by the most formidable group of autocratic usurpers of Despotic power in the history of the world. They have formed aggressive alliances, and openly declare their purpose to destroy all governments, ''of the people, by the people and for the people.'' No such free government, or people is safe. Inventions of our civilization have bridged time and space and oceans,—and even now the malign shadow of that danger to any form of self government lies across our oceans and our hemisphere. Some of us may magnify, and some may minimize the menace to our government, and our ''way of life.'' But no one questions that the danger is real. We may not be bombed, or overrun by mechanized armies. But if these aggressors succeed, we will have no such security, no such peace as we have always known. If we can survive as a nation; and preserve our liberties which we have always taken for granted as an inalienable right, we will be transformed into an armed camp. War preparation, on land and sea and in the air, will be our license to exist. Our freedoms of labor, of enterprise, of property, and of person will be a memory. Great Britain and her allies are making a desperate fight for survival. If they can hold long enough to wear down, and stop the totalitarian aggressors, the problems before us will still be serious. Whatever the outcome of the war, we will need wisdom and understanding, as never before, in this age.

There should be no experimenting with the tried fundamentals of our government. Our best course may be to ''dig in'' and try to hold what we have. Our objective should be to preserve the basic principle of self government, that, ''government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed.'' This principle, with all its implications should be drilled into the minds of all our people, from the school, the pulpit, the rostrum, and the home fireside.

The test of our understanding, our wisdom, and our power in shaping the destiny of our nation, and the future welfare of the world, will come when the victors and the vanquished gather in a peace conference.

Whether we are drawn into this war or not, we must sit in that conference. And if we are wise, it will not be merely as a disinterested observer. Our voice and our influence will be needed to defend and support the cause of self government.

We should prepare ourselves and our people for this peace conference and the certain trials and sacrifices of the post war readjustments. Let us not repeat the mistakes of the World War peace conference. That World War, like most wars, started from the age old complications, cross purposes, self-serving interests, hates, economic pressures, and all the other elements of international discord inherent in the time honored "balance of power" diplomacy. From such sordid beginnings, the declared purpose of that war gradually developed into a crusade to make this a "war to end war," and to make the world "safe for democracy."

Our president was given credit for initiating the idea of incorporating in the peace covenant, a league of all nations to keep peace in the world. Some fifty odd nations subscribed to that league, and at the time it appeared that an overwhelming majority of our people, and our civic and business organizations, desired and expected our country to subscribe. A statutory majority of our senate, must, under our laws, pass on such treaties, and some members of that body, had, during the peace negotiations, become violently opposed to our approval of the covenant. This opposition included some members who had previously declared themselves in favor of such a league for peace. Four of these Senators, Borah of Idaho, Johnson of California, Lodge of Massachusetts, and Reed of Missouri were perhaps the most active and violent in their opposition, and finally succeeded in attaching reservations to the senate approval. This was perhaps the greatest disservice that any four men have ever given to their country and to the world, in modern times. It was said that President Wilson believed that this opposition was inspired more by personal pique, than conscientious objection to the measure, and he refused to approve the treaty with the senate reservations, and declared he would "take the issue to the country." That decision was doubtless the greatest mistake that President Wilson, or any president, ever made, either officially or personally. Officially, it prevented this country from subscribing to the league which it had sponsored from the beginning. Some years later, Ex-president Taft said, "Oh, if Wilson had only signed that covenant with reservations; we would have stood committed to the broad principles of the covenant, and we would have done our part." Such was the opinion of one of the great men of our times who was known throughout the world as an able jurist, and a sincere supporter of any and all proposals to advance the cause of peace among nations. Personally, that same decision started Wilson on his tour of "appeal to the country," for approval without

change so much as the "dot of an i or cross of a t" and which ended ignominiously with his tragic breakdown at Kansas City, and defeated this last supreme effort of a brilliant and eventful career. He returned to Washington a broken and discredited world figure. Never in modern times has any man or group of men had so great an opportunity to give the world a real chance to end war. Without that opposition of a small minority of senators the covenant would doubtless have been approved without reservations. And Wilson had his chance to accept the covenant with the reservations.

We may each offer our own conjecture as to how our refusal to join affected the work and life of the league. But it would now appear plain that our membership could not have made matters worse, and might have made the difference between success and failure of this great humanitarian effort to end war—the crime of the ages. And its success would have been the greatest boon to humanity, and to the welfare and security of our civilization since the coming of the Prince of Peace to this earth.

Unfortunately this opposition to the covenant brought the peace issue into our politics, and while each succeeding president, Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover openly espoused adherence to the world court, and at least tacitly favored joining the league of nations, our government stood aloof from any direct participation in any world peace movement. To those of us who were consistently opposed to war, and in favor of any and all proposals offering promise of judicial settlement of international differences, the very fact that our government, the original and chief sponsor of the league covenant, and the outstanding democracy who had taken part in that war, refused to subscribe, was a major handicap to the success of the league. That league functioned successfully as to all matters except the vital issue of militant aggression, and doubtless justified its existence by its contributions to the welfare of the people of the world. However, when there arose a crucial test of aggressive war, the league did not, successfully, meet the issue. While many and divergent considerations are always involved in such issues, it seems only fair to members of the league, to consider whether any circumspect nation of the world would be at all likely to attempt to exercise the police power provided by the league, or impose sanctions on the offending powers, when the United States, with the greatest potential military force, and the greatest reservoir of food, and military stores, had not only refused to subscribe to its own peace plan, but stood ready to sell these supplies to any and all who had the price, whether that purchaser be the offender or defender of the peace of the world. It is well for us to review this inconsistent and tragic record before we approach participation in another world peace conference.

The peace of Versailles has been severely criticised, but we should recognize, that every such conference is a compromise between conflicting ideas and interests, and the almost insuperable difficulty of

inducing the victors to be really fair and equitable toward the vanquished. And when sponsors of the central powers complain of the severe terms of that treaty, it might be wholesome to ask them what kind of treaty they think would have been written had the victory been reversed. Even our revered constitution was a compromise, of which Benjamin Franklin said, "It probably satisfies no one, but it is the best we could do." Both our constitution and the league of nations covenant carried a provision for amendment. Fortunately, our people have had the wisdom and common sense to exercise that right to amend, instead of abandoning the whole instrument.

The idea of such a league was not new. Along about the beginning of the century, our own President Theodore Roosevelt, in the course of an address, made the following statement.

> "The one permanent move for obtaining peace which has yet been suggested with any reasonable chance of obtaining its object is by an agreement among the great powers, in which each should pledge itself not only to abide by the decisions of a common tribunal but to back with force the decisions of that common tribunal. The great civilized nations of the world which do not possess force actually or immediately potential should combine by solemn agreement in a great world league for a peace of righteousness."

It is interesting to observe that in this short statement, President Roosevelt incorporated not only the purpose and scope of such an agreement, but the real essence and import of the Versailles league covenant, including, the contentious Article Ten. And he specifically disclaimed authorship of the idea. Thus we find that the most righteous humanitarian ideas are as old as our records of rightminded men.

One thing seems plain, if wars are to continue, our civilization WILL DESTROY ITSELF WITH THE MECHANICS OF ITS OWN CREATION. It is axiomatic that "self-preservation is the first law of life;" it would seem that very law, and plain common sense, would impel civilized people to abandon war. One such hopeful sign in the present war is that all belligerents have thus far refrained from using poison gas. We can hardly credit this to humanitarian motives, and the plausible reason is that each side fears retaliation.

Most opponents of proposals for world peace, eloquently profess opposition to war, and advocate peace, but consistently oppose any and every plan that has any reasonable prospect of adoption. One of their stock arguments is that there "always has been and always will be war," that to fight is "human nature," and that human nature "does not change." If this were true, Darwin would never have written his "Origin of Species." They do not seem to be able to discriminate between the aeons of evolutionary change and the relatively short time for change in human habits and conduct. No longer do civilized peoples use

the torture chamber, and within the memory of living men slavery has been outlawed. Dueling has been discredited and abolished in all civilized or even semi-civilized countries, excepting only that one country which has now produced a worthy successor to Attilla the Hun. A civilization that can establish law and order WITHIN the boundaries of nations, can establish law and order BETWEEN those nations. When we wrote the Canadian boundary treaty with England, we razed the forts and beached the warships from a 3000 mile boundary line, and for 150 years have showed the doubting world what could be done. Just as long as a majority of people think it can't be done, it won't be. But when a majority think it can be done, it will be. Ideas are stronger than force, and Socrates statement that "the mind is master of the man," is still true.

Probably analagous to participation in the league would be our good neighbor policy toward our central and South American Republics. It would seem that a consistent isolationist could find more real or imaginary danger, in an agreement to defend all these nations, than was involved in joining with all nations in the league. We have long been committed to the "Monroe Doctrine," and the recent Declaration of Lima, creates a definite additional obligation. Britian has been a tacit supporter of the Monroe Doctrine, and her fleet has been a very helpful factor in our defense of that doctrine. Should her naval control of the Atlantic pass to unfriendly hands, we would be obliged to strengthen our sea power in those waters. A reciprocal defensive understanding with these southern republics is manifestly important to our potential supply of tropical products and some essential war materials. But will our isolationists consent to carry through, or will they renege as they did on the World court and League issues.

A democratic government is always "on trial" before the court of its citizenship. If government is not satisfactory the people have the power to change. Our government has been called "an economic political system, which is giving the largest number of people living in an area the greatest amount of personal liberty possible, with the highest standard of living available out of the economic energy and the resources of that country." That sounds like a good definition of our kind of government, and a right good place to live. Our people do have more of the things that all peoples want, than any other people on this earth. One reason is, that they live and operate under a free capitalistic system of individual reward for individual effort. The individual freedoms of capitalism fits into the freedoms of our democratic government to the demonstrated advantage of all, the capitalist, the laborer and the consumer. Like all human devices the capitalistic system is not perfect. But it does afford the average citizen more of the necessities, conveniences and luxuries of life than any other plan yet devised by our civilization. The coming post war readjustment may be the opportune time to improve it. Doubtless its chief weakness lies in the so-called "business

cycle,'' which involves violent fluctuations in commodity values during the boom and depression ends of that cycle. For long, economists and financiers have tried to find a remedy, or devise some plan that would tame the speculative boom end, and modify the impact of the price toboggan end. The suggestion which has apparently found most favor is a ''commodity dollar'' based on the average value of the commodities used in making current price index, and which would purpose to maintain the relative exchange value of the money token, and of commodities. The ''commodity dollar'' idea has been studied and endorsed by many individuals and organizations, including the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation. The advantages are plain to all, but many doubt, and others say it would not work. Most students of the problem seem to be able to favorably follow the commodity dollar idea only to the international boundary lines. There they meet complications. The war and post war eventualities may simplify or obliterate this obstacle. Germany now disclaims interest in gold for use as money. We have the major part of the world's monetary gold, and it is still coming. If the world tries to return to the old financial basis, it will be necessary for us to consent to a redistribution of monetary gold in order to give other nations sufficient gold for use as monetary standard. How will that be done? All the great industrial nations are now wasting their substance and exhausting their resources in war. What will they have to offer in exchange for our gold? Will our people consent to lend it, or give it, for the prospect of resuming foreign trade? If not, these nations may be driven to devise other ways to facilitate exchange of commodities. If they do that, what will our gold profit us? (And we might ask, what does our buried gold profit us now?) Gold is a commodity,—just one of the 570 odd commodities used in making our commodity price index.

When general business and financial conditions are normal and reasonably constant, gold serves equitably and well; but not so during the swing of the business cycle. For long our orators have reechoed that ''our dollar rings true on every counter in the world.'' But we who have experienced the ''boom'' and ''depression'' swings of the business cycle know that is not true . The real ''value'' of the dollar is measured by the commodities for which it will exchange. A dollar that will today buy twice as much of the average of all commodities than it did a short time past, does not ring true on any counter. It isn't an honest dollar. And we who have lived long enough to be members of this organization know the tragic process from sad experience. When prices are advancing the laborer receives less and less goods for his dollar. He becomes dissatisfied and may demand, or strike for higher wages and get a raise. But the relief is temporary. So long as the ''business cycle'' moves up, he must ask again and again. During this same period of advancing prices business and profits are good. Everyone wants to buy. Business men are happy and making obligations at the prevailing higher and

higher prices. Eventually the business cycle reaches its top and turns. Then the laborer has his turn of good times. So long as he continues to get this higher wage, the declining prices enable him to buy more and more goods with his dollars. But the man who has debts to pay, finds that the declining prices do not bring enough dollars for his goods, to pay bills. Those debts are static, and payable in dollars. He has just as much goods to sell as when the debt was made, but the goods bring less dollars.

The "orbit" of the business cycle is well known. The upward swing may start from any good ordinary business conditions, when most business is profitable. Then some optimists may think business will be better and prices higher, and start buying; others see the profits being made and buy, and the "business cycle" is on, with prices moving up and up. This continues until some of the more cautious speculators begin to wonder if it isn't about time to take their profits, and they commence to sell. Others follow. Then everyone wants to sell, and no one wants to buy. Business stagnates, factories close, debtors cannot pay their bills, people lose faith in everyone and everything except money, and that is the one thing most difficult to get. Most of those who do have it, hoard and hide, instead of buying property at any price. The depression is on. These symptoms are well known, but in the halcyon bull market times, no one wants to see or hear a danger signal. Many of you will doubtless recall that prior to the 1929 debacle, President Coolidge, sounded a warning note, and for that was roundly criticised from all sides. Spokesmen for big business declared that we had reached a "new order" of business, and some called it a "new dispensation," but I do not recall that any one mentioned the "new deal."

There is nothing new about the "business cycle" with its optimism, advancing prices, good times, and dizzy heights, and then its devastating fall to depression depths, which marks its chronology in the memory of its victims and in our records of economic and financial disasters. We had our first major depression about 1816, and again in 1837, again in 1857, again in 1873, then in 1893, and the one we all know, of 1929. During these times there were minor financial pressures, the most severe being the so-called Currency Panic of 1907, but none of which had the devastating effect of a major financial convulsion. The devastating forces of a periodic "business cycle" threatens the very foundation of our capitalistic system. The business world wonders whether Chaos or Kosmos will emerge. Thus far we have always recovered, but at a terrific cost in financial casualties. The tragic records of this last and prior depressions show the need of a more constant and equitable medium of exchange. Gold is not a sacred standard of value. "Money" is merely a token of value that we have devised to facilitate the exchange of goods. What we want, is that token or device that will best serve the purpose. The advocates of the commodity dollar believe it would automatically rise and fall with the commodity index level. If so then

the wage or salary dollar would have a relatively constant purchasing power with the average commodity price, and the debtors dollar would have a relative constant debt paying power. The "business cycle" would lose its terrors. It would be a boon to all business, and particularly to banks, insurance companies, and all fiduciaries of trust funds. Again we hear, "it can't be done." Maybe so, but unless we build when and where we can, we may not hold the good we have.

We prize our democracy, and have shed our blood to make the world safe for democracy; yet we tolerate filibustering in our United States Senate.

We allow that august body to debauch the first principles of democracy, by making rules that permits one senator to frustrate the will of the majority, and that in utter disregard of the wishes or rights of the people. There is no constitutional or legislative authority for this. It is an authority assumed by the senate under the usual privilege granted to legislative bodies to adopt their own rules of procedure. It is safe to say the framers of the constitution never dreamed that any senator or senators selected to represent a democratic people or state, would have the assurance to deliberately subvert the proper purpose of rules, to grant to each and every senator the autocratic right to frustrate or defeat the will of the majority. Any such undemocratic rule would be overwhelmingly rejected by a vote of the people, or by the vote of any other legislative body in the land, including the House of Representatives. Yet we tolerate it. It would be ludicrous, were it not so tragic to see "The greatest deliberative body in the world" in action during a "filibuster." One strong winded "senator" talking against time to empty seats. And talking about what? The long chances are it won't be the pending bill, nor anything remotely relevant. He may, and usually does talk about airy nothings until his talk, and time, defeats the will of the majority, and the will of the people. That august body, (which has also been dubbed the most exclusive club in the world) not only made the rule, but they love it and defend it. Never yet have I heard or known of anyone outside that body approve or defend it; nor have I ever heard or known of a member who disapproved of it, or would consent to relinquish it. It is a most unfortunate example of autocratic inconsistency, and I would like to hear from some of those senators, how they can consistently refuse to grant autocratic powers to others. Don't they know that in this democracy, all men are created equal? That august body might well take warning from the fate of Britain's House of Lords, which lost pretty much all connection with the government, except their membership card. We may hope that some day the senators will voluntarily remove this travesty they impose on our democratic government.

Our best protection against the enemies of our democracy is to make and keep this country of ours the best place on this earth for common people to live. And its up to these selfsame common people to do the

job. No one can do it for them. Our government is no richer or better than its people. If we want to ruin our coming generations of common people, teach our youth that they have a paternal government that owes them a good living, and security from all the unpredictable ills and vicissitudes of life, and a pension when too old to enjoy the other bounties,—you will have a nation of irresponsible malingerers. If "security" or "social justice" means giving the earning of the industrious and competent to the lazy and incompetent, then our Benjamin Franklins and all other exponents of our time tried teachings of good citizenship have been wrong. What made this country a "land of promise" to all hopeful peoples of the world? Not alone its national resources. Other countries had as much. Not conquest and loot. Our forbears found "rock bound coasts" and a wilderness to subdue. It was "*Democracy*" in government with all its implications. Democracy in education. Democracy in labor, Democracy in industry, Democracy in opportunity, Democracy in all activities of life, and Democracy in the hearts and souls of our people. Our forbears conceived and by their example, precept and laws, ordained and established the foundations of our economic future. Thou shalt earn thy bread by the sweat of thy brow was a benediction, not a curse. It was the first principle of progress and human welfare. The only worth while help, is to help one to help himself. The every day rewards of industry and initiative will do the rest. Teach our growing generations; that our individual freedoms are the most precious possession we have and must be preserved and protected against impairment by either foreign aggression or surrender by ourselves. That wealth comes only from productive labor. That the more we produce, the more there is to divide among all; that the busiest people get the most out of life. That no nation ever went into decay from the productive industry of its people; and that in this democracy of ours we the people own the government, and that we ourselves are responsible for all that is done. That individual ownership of our city and farm homes is our safest assurance of social and political stability, and the best bulwark against all the "isms" of the soap box brigade, or any other menace to our good way of life. That the most inspiring and important message coming to us from past ages is that mankind is on the upward way, and that not-with-standing the Attillas and the Gengis Khans and the Hitlers, our world is slowly but surely making a better way of life for all.

Immediately at the conclusion of his address, President Van Alstine appointed Emory H. English, I. A. Smith, and J. E. Craven to serve as the nominating committee to select officers for the next two years, to report prior to the noon recess.

Forthwith the meeting proceeded with the impromptu speeches, recollections, or comments on legislative activity or

of legislative contemporaries. Emory H. English of Des Moines volunteered observations upon a prominent contemporary as follows:

I have long wanted to say just a word about a man in my recollection. He was in the House long before I was a member of the House. I came in the Twenty-Ninth General Assembly, in 1902. Prior to that time I was a committee clerk in the House. One of the representatives from Polk County was a farmer, lived near the small town where I ran the newspaper. He was chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, and I was appointed his committee clerk. While I was around the Assembly Mr. Funk of Iowa Falls was the Speaker of one of those sessions, and Dr. Bowen, of Waukon, was the Speaker in the other session. But prior to that session there was a man Speaker of the House that seemed to me then and later to tower above the average legislator both in ability and in tact and in success in the things that he worked for, and I want to refer to Web Byers.

As a young man sitting around as a committee clerk less than thirty years old you are bound to watch older men and how they perform. I had a very sincere admiration for how Web Byers handled the House as its Speaker. And later on he came back as the member from Shelby County in the Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth General Assembly, and he and Rush Clark over there sat near each other and were boon companions. But Web was just as resourceful a man on the floor as he was as Speaker.

I simply want to say that in my knowledge—the three sessions that I was in the General Assembly and before and since—I have not known a man—except those here, of course—who seemed to me measured up to the duties and the matters that were before the Assembly and the needs of the hour better than our friend Web Byers. I have always kind of had that in my heart and I wanted to say it some time, whether it goes in the record or not. I just want to pay that tribute to Web, because I believe, as the saying is, he had the goods and usually delivered them.

President Van Alstine observed that "most any of us that ever knew Mr. Byers would recognize when he took a position you knew what his position was and you knew who he was. He made himself felt."

Judge H. J. Mantz, of Audubon, added his recollection of Web Byers from personal observation as a young man: "I recall as a boy his trying cases in court. I would drift into the court room. And when it came to handling the jury, he was just simply a past master. He was an outstanding man, an able man. I heard a lawyer one day say that in intellectual

ability he usually began thinking where the other fellow left off."

C. E. Nary of Spirit Lake called the attention of the members to his personal friend, an acquaintance of all present, the late Senator A. B. Funk, remarking that "one of my early recollections of Senator Funk in a political way was at the time of the Cummins-Perkins contest, and we all know what an enthusiast he was for Senator Cummins and how successful he was. In later years," Nary continued, "I used to have considerable fun at the expense of Mr. Funk in my visits with him, because while he fought strenuously for the primary law at the time of the Cummins contest, he later became quite convinced that he had been wrong, and if any of you talked to him about the primary law afterwards you learned that he would often say 'wonderful in theory but terrible in practice.' I don't know whether we all quite agree with that, but we do know that there are many abuses in the handling of governmental affairs that have come about by reason of the primary law, and that was one of the things that the Senator regretted."

Mr. Nary concluded by endorsing the opinions of Web Byers previously expressed. William G. Kerr, of Grundy Center, also concurred in that consensus, adding that "he was absolutely incorruptible," and that many would "like to have seen him made Attorney General of the United States. He was talked of for that place, but he never felt he was worthy of it."

Among others who expressed themselves concerning Mr. Byers was F. A. Garber of Leon, He observed that there was "another person who was a prominent speaker in the Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth General Assemblies," James B. Weaver. Recounting an incident from recollection, Mr. Garber recalled that on occasion of their meeting at the state house at one of those sessions he addressed Weaver with the observation, "Jim, I have just been looking at the Allison monument, and it made me think of something I heard your father say." To Mr. Weaver's inquiry as to what it was, Garber replied, "He said 'William B. Allison is a sly old fox,

but his hand was as cold as a fish's tail.' " Jim Weaver then exclaimed, "Oh, I am no martyr like father was."

E. J. Bradley of Eldon paid tribute to the elder James B. Weaver as a "man of culture, a colossal brain, a gentleman and a scholar of the laws and the fundamental doctrine of constitutional law of this country."

Of others who had long been members of the association but who passed away within the last two years, Emory H. English recalled the friendship between Senator A. B. Funk and Ex-Governor Warren Garst, and related the legislative teamwork of Warren Garst and Funk, the one chairman of the appropriations committee, the other chairman of the ways and means committee, when Funk sought and succeeded in having B. F. Carroll placed on his committee by exchange.

Notice was also made of the death of R. J. Bixby, John C. Flenniken, and Wallace Arney, as well as of the sickness of John Hale and John Lister.

Secretary Williams then read extracts of letters received from members unable to attend, more extensively reported at the conclusion of this summary.

E. J. Bradley then took opportunity to urge upon the association that the list of former legislators appearing in the next Official Iowa Register be made to include the name of every individual who ever served the state in that capacity, rather than only those who have served since 1915. A motion to that effect received the approval of the meeting, and by a further vote the President, H. S. Van Alstine, and Harry White of Vinton, together with George M. Titus were selected as that committee.

The nominating committee brought in their report submitted by Emory H. English, chairman, as follows:

President, Ray P. Scott of Marshalltown
Vice-President, Henry L. Adams of Des Moines
Secretary, Ora Williams, Des Moines

District vice-presidents nominated for nine districts—not knowing what the reapportionment might be—were:

J. M. Brockaway, Muscatine; C. F. Clark, Cedar Rapids; N. W. Beebe, Hampton; Carl W. Reed, Cresco; Frank Shane,

Ottumwa; H. T. Saberson, Des Moines; George W. Van Camp, Greenfield; W. W. Goodykontz, Boone; C. E. Narey, Spirit Lake.

The Executive Committee of the Association was announced as composed of John C. De Mar, Minneapolis; H. S. Van Alstine, Gilmore City; George M. Titus, Muscatine; and R. G. Clark, Des Moines.

On the motion of George M. Titus the report was unanimously adopted.

With Secretary Williams' statement that dinner was to be served members in the historical library, and that the General Assembly was to receive them in joint session that afternoon, the association stood at recess until 2 P. M. to meet in the Law Library of the State House.

Afternoon Session of the Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers' Association

The afternoon session, meeting with the General Assembly in the House Chamber, was called to order by President Hickenlooper, who addressed the session briefly before introducing the E. Carl White Quartette, who sang the official Iowa State Song, "The Song of Iowa," by Major S. H. M. Byers.

State Senator Leo A. Elthon then briefly welcomed the Pioneers Lawmakers. Following his remarks Representative Irwin of Keokuk saluted Arch W. McFarlane, who was not only an eligible member of the Pioneer Lawmakers' Association, but who was then serving as an able representative from Black Hawk County in the 49th General Assembly, having previously served both as a State Senator and as Lieutenant Governor of the state. Being brought to the Speaker's platform, Representative McFarlane responded briefly to the recognition accorded him. Representative A. H. Avery of Clay County next welcomed the Pioneer Lawmakers on behalf of the House of Representatives, paying tribute to the tradition of lawmaking and legislative proceedure of which he felt they were the heirs and guardians.

Hon. John A. Storey, of Des Moines responded first, on behalf of the Association, and recalled incidents from his first

experiences in the legislature, in the Twentieth and the Twenty-first assemblies:

The Twentieth General Assembly met in the old Capitol Building just across the way where the Soldiers' Monument now stands. We met, organized by electing Mr. Wolf, of Cedar County, Speaker, and the chief clerk and other employees, and then in a few days we moved over to this magnificient building. So the Twentieth General Assembly was the last to meet in the old Capitol Building and the first to meet in this magnificent one.

The hall in which we met in the old building, especially by its seats and desks, reminded me of the little old country schoolhouse I attended some eighty years ago. This magnificent building was like Heaven—wonderful!

While it was magnificent, we did not enjoy all the benefits that you members of the Forty-ninth now enjoy. For example, we did not vote then by pushing a button. We had to answer a roll call. Then, too, no single member of the House had a clerk. Possibly a half dozen clerks in the House, serving the most important committees. Now you have, as I understand it, about eleven employes looking after the doors. You have, I guess, one hundred or more stenographers and typewriters to look after your bills and amendments and your correspondence. Then, if I remember correctly, there was no typewritten bill introduced in that House—all by longhand, and we carried on our correspondence in the same manner.

So far as the ability of the members of the General Assembly to serve, I think they probably were average, compared with this or several General Assemblies. There were some men then noted in the State as members of the House. For example, I will mention ex-Governor Carpenter, who then had come from Webster County to serve as a member of the House. It made me think of John Quincy Adams, once President of the United States, later serving his country as a member of Congress. Now while the office in each case might seem less important, yet they were both honorably served.

Other prominent members of the House were General Tuttle, of Polk County; Colonel Clayton, of Pottawattamie County; Captain Head, who became Speaker of the House of the Twenty-first General Assembly. And there was Captain Lyons, of Guthrie County, who afterwards became Auditor of State. Then there was Captain Watrous, a prominent business man in Des Moines. There was a Mr. Kerr, of Grundy, who afterwards served for a number of years in the United States Congress. Then there was Silas Weaver, of Hardin County, I believe, chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the Twentieth, and later served for many years with honor on the Supreme Bench of the State of Iowa. So you see there were some prominent people then. Others became prominent later. Some of the members were afterwards elected as District Judges throughout different parts of the State. I don't know

so much about the Senate in the General Assembly, but I do know that there were two of the most prominent lawyers of the State in the Senate of that Assembly—Mills of Davenport, and Hall of Burlington. Then there was another Senator—I don't recall his name, but he was later appointed United States District Judge in Iowa.

There were, of course, other able men, but I cannot take up your time to speak of any more. I will speak shortly about some of the legislation that took place in the Twentieth General Assembly. One of the important bills was a bill providing that we pay our taxes semi-annually in place of annually as they had to do before. The bill passed the Senate, came to the House and was defeated—fought bitterly. On the roll call at that time, when it got down near the bottom of the roll, one member, myself, voted against the bill, although I had promised to vote for it. The manager of that bill in the House came and called me down for changing my mind. I told him I hadn't, just to watch. And as soon as the vote was announced I moved to reconsider. That night we went to work and persuaded a number of those who had voted against it to change their minds and to vote for it, and the bill the next day passed, and it is the law today.

Another important matter that probably attracted the attention of the people throughout the State was the Prohibitory Law. As you know, the people of Iowa had ratified an amendment to the Constitution providing for prohibition in Iowa and providing that the next legislature should pass laws necessary to put it in force. It was a matter that took considerable debate. We found on canvassing we had just fifty-one votes, Republicans, that would vote for the bill. It only took fifty-one votes at that time to pass a bill in the House. So we felt easy until just about the time for the bill to come up when Mr. Weaver, that I have heretofore mentioned, took sick and was sick in bed. And in order to gain that fifty-one votes that we thought we were sure of we carried him in on a stretcher and put him down on the floor in front of the clerk's desk. But when the roll was finally called one Democrat, I think the member from Montgomery, although I don't recall his name, voted with us and the Prohibitory Law was passed.

Another matter that I might speak of, but very briefly. At that time we only had one insane asylum in the State of Iowa. A bill was introduced to locate one in Southwestern Iown. It was fought by members from Central Iowa who tried to amend the bill and have it located in West Central Iowa. But after considerable fighting they got it through the House and it became a law. They said they were going to build a cottage plan asylum. But when the Twenty-first was reached they reported they had a foundation laid for a central building for that asylum. They wanted an appropriation to continue building that. In sort of sport I moved a bill to provide that we should appropriate

$15,000 to box up that foundation and preserve it until a more favorable date was reached to erect the building. So that the matter was passed.

Before I take up the Twenty-first, I want to say that one of our most constant and faithful visitors in the Twentieth General Assembly was Mr. Finkbine, of Des Moines, who was the superintendent or supervisor of the construction of this magnificent building. He was proud of his work, and we were proud of him. It stands, it seems to me, as a monument to the memory of that honest and faithful servant of Iowa, for no whisper was ever uttered against any acts or matters of his. The Twentieth General Assembly, as I told you before, had elected a Speaker. The Chief Clerk was Sidney A. Foster, the author of that wonderful slogan at a later time, "Of all that is good Iowa affords the best." Sid was a good clerk. Later he and Governor Jackson and Gib Pray, then clerk of the Supreme Court, organized the Royal Union Life Insurance Company, which lasted for many years, did a great business, but finally failed—probably after the old managers of it had passed away.

The Legislature of the Twenty-first General Assembly don't impress me as anything very special. There were only, as I said, a few new members. Many of the old members of the Twentieth General Assembly were returned to the Twenty-first. But there were one or two new members that I do feel that I ought to mention. One was Bob Cousins, in the House from Cedar County— a very quiet, inoffensive young man, who was a member of the House, who, as you may know, was later elected as a member of Congress and attained to a national reputation as an orator.

In the Senate one new member that I recall was Lafayette Young, for a long time owner and editor of the Des Moines Capital, and who for a short time served as a member of the United States Senate.

There is one matter in the Twenty-first General Assembly that I am not very proud of, and I don't think it added any special glory to the memory of the Twenty-first. Serious charges were preferred in the House against our State Auditor. We had two Judiciary Committees then. The charges were referred to No. 2 Judiciary Committee. They held secret sessions, taking the evidence, excluding newspaper reporters and everybody else except witnesses and members of the committee and possibly the members who preferred the charges. They finally brought in a report recommending that State Auditor Brown should be impeached. I as chairman of No. 1 Judiciary Committee opposed it, said "we have had no evidence; you men sat in secret session; we don't know what the evidence is. I don't feel like voting on this bill without knowing something about what the charges are and what the evidence was." But the House, as I say, voted for impeachment. A committee was appointed to conduct a trial before the State Senate. I refused to take any part in that, declined to act as prosecutor with the other members of the committee on that charge. The Senate of

the Twenty-first General Assembly found State Auditor Brown not guilty. But it cost the State of Iowa over $40,000. Thank you, gentlemen.

At the conclusion of Judge Storey's remarks, former Senator George M. Titus, member of the Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth sessions, addressed the joint convention and assembly, noting that his health was better than ever, for one who could remember as a youth in New York State the days of the Civil War. Commenting on Judge Storey's allusion to the new state capitol building first used by the Twentieth General Assembly, Senator Titus began his talk by recounting the following incident in connection with the appropriation of funds to build:

The first appropriation of a million and a half was made by the Thirteenth General Assembly. Then, as now, Des Moines people were awake to their own interests, and the members of the General Assembly were dined and wined and entertained, the purpose being to get that appropriation of a million and a half to build this fine building, to start it. Some of the members, we are told, held back quite a while, because they got more dinners by waiting. And finally the people got so interested in that appropriation that the Chaplain made it part of every prayer, and in this body, the House, the Chaplain petitioned the Almighty to put it into the minds of these statesmen to build a suitable building for this grand old State of Iowa. And we are told that a member of this House got the floor and said, "Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce a resolution." He was recognized by the Speaker. "I will read the resolution. 'Resolved, that in the future Chaplains praying for the passage of bills shall take them in the order they appear on the calendar.' " Finally the bill was passed, and we are all glad of this wonderful building. As I look it over, the time since I was here, seems to me the decorations have got much more handsome than when we were here.

Inquiring of the convention how many knew Senator William B. Allison, Senator Titus continued by observing:

I want to remind you today of what a wonderful statesman he seemed to be. While not always agreeing with him, but away back, some of us young fellows having reached the smart age, decided that the tariff ought to be revised. We went to Washington and called on Senator Allison. He said, "Mr Titus, how are things in Iowa?" I said, "Agriculturally they are all right, but if you pass the McKinley Bill as introduced, I don't know what will happen." It did pass, and we only elected four Republican congressmen. But the final result was that it made McKinley President in 1896.

And years ago when "Pitchfork" Tillman, a Democratic Senator from North or South Carolina, came to Muscatine to lecture at our Chautauqua, it was my business to take him up on the stage. And I said to him, "Senator Tillman, what do you think of our man Senator Allison?" He turned to me and he said, "Mr. Titus, what do I think of Senator Allison? My God, I love that man." And he brought his hand over and put it on mine and held it for two or three minutes. He said, "Mr. Titus, Senator Allison plays on that Senate like the lady plays on the piano. Anything that the old man wants he can have."

Senator Dolliver I regard as one of the best campaigners this State ever had. I remember hearing him in a campaign speech, remember hearing him talking about the soil in the Eastern country. He said, "I was back in New England, and I cannot understand how they raise anything back there. I've walked past the cemetery, and the sexton was digging a grave. I went in to see how deep the soil was, and I asked the sexton how they raised anything in that soil. And his reply was, 'We fertilize.' 'You fertilize?' 'Yes, we even fertilize the cemetery.' 'Fertilize the cemetery? What do you fertilize the cemetery for?' He said, 'We feel that it would help out in the resurrection.' "

The high spot in the General Assembly when I came here was backing a measure that finally was passed and became the law of the land. Senator Emmert of Atlantic said to me—he was one time president of the State Board of Health—he says, "I have got a little bill here that I want you to help me on, Senator Titus. It is a bill requiring the testing of cattle brought into this State for tuberculosis." I said, "Why, I don't know anything about tuberculosis in cows." And he said he wasn't getting some votes. I stepped into the library and Johnson Brigham gave me the report of the Massachusetts Commission in which it stated they had just paid $275,000 for the cows they killed that could not stand the tubercular test.

Well, I took that book over to the hotel and I read until two o'clock, realizing what an advantage I would have when the bill was attacked on the floor. And I remember the language of Senator Bolter when he got the floor after Senator Emmert had presented the bill. He said, "Mr. President, I have been a member of this General Assembly for sixteen years, but this is the first time that I ever knew of the State being asked to chase microbes and bacilli. There stands the Senator from Woodbury, six feet two in his stocking feet. Where in the name of God would he have grown if he had been nourished with milk after the microbes and bacilli had been killed? Mr. President, I see on the border line between Iowa and Missouri a guard that has a lariat in one hand and a tuberculin tester in the other. Here comes a Missouri farmer with his cows. 'Halt' says the guard. He lariats the cows and he sticks the tuberculin tester into one of the animals and says, 'Take your cow home. She has consumption.' "

While that sort of ridicule kept going on I had my book there, and after all the attacks on the bill had been made I just proceeded to read from my book that the State of Massachusetts paid $275,000 for cows they killed after examination for tuberculosis in Massachusetts, and then that the Royal Commission of England had decided that tuberculosis in cows was the same as in human beings.

The bill failed by two votes. I remember Senator Emmert said, "Senator Titus, the time will come when all cows will be tested." I notice by the last report of the Department of Agriculture that that is the fact, that now tuberculosis in cattle is almost unknown. That was of great interest to me, as I was able at that time by reason of this book to meet the situation, and now it is an accomplished fact.

When I came to the legislature my partner said, "Now you are going up there, why not get rid of so much politics? We just go through one campaign and then we start in on another." I consulted with the older members here and they said, "Yes, such should be the law." I said, "Let's do it." Nobody seemed to do it, so I went into the library and read the constitution of every state in the Union and found that only ten states had annual elections, including Iowa, and I introduced the resolution, after having prepared it and submitted it to Judge Deemer, who sat at the same table with me at the old Savery Hotel.

Well, here is where the excitement comes. I had no idea that that would attract any particular attention, but I found myself quite famous, and the resolution passed the General Assembly, and it passed the next General Assembly, was voted on and carried by 30,000. And then someone attacked its validity. It was defeated by the Supreme Court, and passed again, and in 1900 became the law, and we have biennial instead of annual elections, in the state every other year, saving $450,000 at least.

I want to tell you what happened in the Constitutional Amendments Committee at that time—made up of lawyers—Judge Blanchard, George Allyn, Charlie Mullan of Waterloo—all lawyers. They said to me, "If this resolution is to pass and we are to have biennial elections instead of annual, we will elect all the officers at the same time."

I said, "Our plan is to have a four year term, and elect one-half at one biennial period and the other half at the other—at the next biennial period." Now I felt it not out of place, since there is a bill before this General Assembly changing to four year terms, to tell you that it was the plan of the Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth General Assemblies— the plan of the committee—that we should have a four year term. And while you are doing that, what is the objection to a resolution to be passed by this General Assembly providing for a four year term for the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor and the officers governed by the Constitution? If it is passed by the next General Assembly and becomes a law, you will have carried out what was the in-

tention of the General Assembly that passed the first resolution providing for biennial elections.

Now I have taken considerable time, but I want to finish what I have to say by telling you a true story on this long, long trail that I have traveled. Discontent strikes people and they become dissatisfied. I know in '88 I felt that Muscatine was too small for my caliber. But I stayed right there, and I want to tell you a true story as I have told the Pioneer Lawmakers and just as I tell you here today, and then I will be through.

Several years ago Mrs. Titus and I went to Europe. Not speaking any but the English language we decided that we would rather go in a party and be conducted. We selected a Tourist Company that only permitted about fifteen. When we arrived at New York we found that of those fifteen six were from Philadelphia, four from Evansville, Indiana, two from New Haven, two from Camden, New Jersey, one from Toledo, and Mrs. Titus and myself from Muscatine. For the first time in my life I felt the embarrassment of coming from a rather insignificant or unknown city. They asked me how Muscatine was spelled. And when I said it was an Indian name they asked me if there were Indians there then. And Mrs. Titus suggested that we should have registered from Chicago. And I am telling you this story because you may find this out about the town where you live. You may discover a good deal that you don't know about.

One evening when we were together someone asked if I had read the book, "Pigs is Pigs." And I said, "Yes, that was written by Ellis Parker Butler, who lives in my town."

And on another evening they spoke of the wonderful company that made Royal Baking Powder. And I said, "Will Ziegler got that formula for the Royal Baking Powder from a steamboat captain in Muscatine, and he started his career manufacturing it in a drug store in Muscatine." When we got over to Amsterdam I excused myself from the crowd and said, "We are going to call on the U. S. Counsul, he is a friend of ours from Muscatine, Frank Mahin, a brother of John Mahin."

When we were coming down through France one of the gentlemen called my attention to a sign out in the field, "H. J. Heinz—57 Varieties," and said "That is a wonderful institution, advertised all over the world." "Yes," I said, "It is, and the largest branch outside of Pittsburgh is located in my town." When we got to Paris I said, "A friend of mine is living near here in a large chateau on an estate. If I knew where it was I would go to see her." Our names were published in the Paris edition of the New York Herald, and this lady happened to be there and to notice it and invited us to visit them. The conductor gave us a car and the chauffeur took us down to that wonderful estate of thirty acres on the banks of the Seine.

And the next day as we started towards the Louvre, the Art Gallery, the conductor said, "Mr. Titus, the driver says you called at quite a swell

place.'' ''Yes,'' I said, ''it is. That is owned by a friend of ours from Muscatine. It cost over a million dollars.''

And as we approached the Art Gallery he says, ''We are now approaching the statue of Lafayette given by the school children of the United States and designed by the celebrated sculptor George Gray Barnard.'' I said, ''Is Mr. Barnard in the city?'' He said, ''I don't know. Do you know him?'' ''Oh, yes, he used to live in Muscatine. His father was pastor of the church to which I belonged.''

The Barry Manufacturing Company gave a banquet in Muscatine. I was asked to tell this story. And Pat Barry, a witty Irishman, made this reply after the story was told. He said, ''We all hope that Senator Titus will live to be very old. But if he should contract the flu and pass away, I venture that when he appears at the pearly gates and the alarm is given, Saint Peter would say, ''Who it it?'' and the response would come, ''Ex-Senator Titus from Muscatine,'' and he would say, ''Let him right in. I used to live in Muscatine myself.'' Well, that was my embarrassment at least about my own town.

Now I give you as my parting message this incident. After a man reaches the age that I have, he doesn't care. I had occasion to write President Roosevelt a couple of years ago, and I wrote to him like I was addressing my own son. And I said, ''You probably marvel at my presumption and my ability to give you advice. But I will remind you that I am old enough to be your father, and I hold to the theory that the human mind does not mature until one is seventy years of age, so there is hope for you yet, (laughter) but nobody will see this letter except my stenographer and myself, unless you show it. But this is an important matter.'' He did show it, and he did what I asked him to.

I think it might be wise for this General Assembly to keep some of these older members of the Pioneer Lawmakers around here from whom you might ask advice. I thank you.

Following the singing of ''God Bless America,'' led by the Quartette and joined in by the convention and their guests, former Senator H. S. Van Alstine, retiring president of the Pioneer Lawmakers' Association expressed the appreciation and thanks of the association for the reception tendered them by the 49th General Assembly. The Joint Convention was then adjourned.

Communications Received From Members of the Association

The Secretary received a number of interesting letters from members of the Association which are reproduced below, some in whole others in part. Many of the writers are men still

active in the harness of business affairs or in public life which has prevented their attendance at the session this year.

Frank Merriam, Senator in the Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh General Assemblies, later Auditor of State, and subsequently after his removal to California, governor of that state, wrote asking to be remembered to members of the association, as he was doubtful of being able to attend "unless some unexpected matter" should bring him east from his Long Beach, California, home. Fred C. Gilchrist of Laurens, who served in the house in the Twenty-ninth, and in the state senate from the Fortieth to the Forty-third, wrote from Washington, D. C. where he now serves the Eighth Congressional District, though congressional business would keep him in Washington, adding however, that "it is a good thing that the Pioneer Lawmakers have an association of this character and it ought to be perpetuated." Karl M. LeCompte, now serving in Washington for the Fifth Congressional District sent greetings too, though remaining in the national capital for similar reasons.

Among those well known to the older members of the association the letter from George E. Roberts, formerly state printer, later Director of the Mint at the turn of the Century, and who later held important positions with the Chase National Bank of New York, will be interesting:

25 Oak Bluff Ave.,
Larchmont, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Williams:

I have the notice of the meeting of Pioneer Lawmakers. I am chiefly interested in the favor that is shown your name. I had not heard of you in recent years and am glad to know you are still on this side and evidently still in the harness. Am glad to send greetings and best wishes.

I do not expect to attend the meeting. I would be glad to attend, and interested to know many of the old guard of the legislature will be there. I fear not many. I hope to see Iowa and Des Moines again, but I will turn another half year this month, 83½ on February 19. When I go I shall choose Spring or Fall. My general health is good, although my eye-sight and hearing gives signs of age.

Very truly yours
Geo. E. Roberts

L. W. Boe, member of the Thirty-third, Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth General Assemblies, now president of St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, writes that

> Most of the fellows who were in the Legislature when I was there must have passed on into the Great Beyond, because I was in my early thirties when I was there. But it would be fun to turn up sometime in Des Moines, just to look at the old place.

David C. Mott, long secretary to the Association, and who to the regret of all has passed on since writing the following letter, sent his wishes and greetings from Helena, Oklahoma:

> I regret that I cannot be with you on the next biennial meeting of the Pioneer Lawmakers.
>
> During the seven biennial sessions that I was secretary and helped make the programs and the arrangements, I made a great many friendships. Many of those friends have passed over from this life, but many of you remain, and to you I extend greetings.

L. L. Bingham, of the Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth, wrote from Los Angeles, California, explaining why he might not be able to share in the delights of the session that though

> there are airplanes to greatly shorten the time required for travel but there are also mounting taxes, and war relief call to which we are glad to contribute—putting personal pleasure second? *No,* finding the greater satisfaction in investing that way.

Thomas A. Way, of Glendale, California, appended a modest boast to his regretful announcement of inability to attend the session in the statement "I'll bet I am the only member of the Association who never introduced a bill."

Byron W. Newberry, state senator in the Thirtieth, Thirty-first, Thirty-second and the Extra, the Thirty-seventh, through the Fortieth Extra, wrote from his home in Strawberry Point, Iowa, which is given below:

Strawberry Point, Iowa,
February 21, 1941

Ora Williams, Curator
State Department of History
Des Moines, Iowa.

My dear friend Ora Williams:

Your favor of the 13th inst. calling my attention to the biennial session of the Pioneer Lawmakers association, which is likely to be held in the forepart of March, was deeply appreciated.

I became a member of the state Senate in January, 1904, which was my first experience in legislation. During 1904 to 1907, I served three sessions in the senate in the 30th, 31st, 32nd, and 32nd special session. I then served in the 37th, 38th, 39th and 40th General Assemblies, four regular sessions and a special Code session in 1924. When I entered the senate there were quite a number of my old-time friends who entered the senate for the first time, among whom Shirley Gillilland, then residing at Glenwood, Mills County, was one, and I recollect you were his committee clerk at the time, and you were also correspondent for a number of newspapers, and you have kept active touch in the state Public Welfare and legislative work ever since. I know of none living who has as accurate knowledge of state affairs and public welfare work than yourself. Yours has surely been a useful life.

I recollect that just before the opening of the 30th General Assembly, the House chamber was badly damaged by fire, and on account of which the chamber was inaccessible for use for two or three weeks or more. As you will recall the House convened in the Senate chamber, and the Senate temporarily occupied what was known as the Judiciary Committee room in the southwest corner, adjacent to the Senate chamber. I knew Shirley when we were students in the state university. I was in the Law Department and he was in the College of Liberal Arts. Two or three days after the Senate convened, he showed me a telegram that he had just received stating that he had a son born to him at his home in Glenwood, and over which he was quite elated. If I mistake not, this same son is now District Judge in the Council Bluffs District. Shirley was active and impulsive, but made a right good senator and rendered very good services in legislative work. He was a very companionable fellow. Should you have a little time, I wish you would write me the names and address of the present living members of the 30th General Assembly, together with the living employees, as far as you recall of them. A great many of them are now deceased or have moved from the state.

I would like very much to attend the ensuing session of the Pioneer Lawmakers association. Nothing would give me more pleasure, but I fear that I will be unable to attend.

I hung out my shingle as an attorney-at-law, here in Strawberry Point, February 7, 1877. I have been a resident and engaged in the law business here ever since. I graduated in the law class of '76 of the S. U. I., and I am the only living member of 55 graduates of this class residing in Iowa. There are a few others residing outside of the state.

It has been a great satisfaction and pleasure to have known you and I appreciate the kindness and assistance that you have rendered me many times.

I trust you are enjoying fairly good health and I hope if I am able when the warm weather comes to visit Des Moines, and I will surely call on you.

Please remember me to any of the Pioneer Lawmakers in attendance at the biennial session, who may know me.
Very sincerely yours,

Byron W. Newberry,

BWN:MJH

J. A. Kasa, of Wallingford, wrote to say among other things that it is

> Now 49 years ago since I sat at the *then* No. 20 desk to the right from the Speaker's stand, with a "handfull" of Democrats at the left of the speaker's stand, as I presume, you have it now.
>
> No disgrace to the "handfull" of those solons, because the bible says, that only few will enter heaven.
>
> I would like to have faced the present solons, representatives and senators with their beautiful lady clerks at their side. I would have pronounced it a "Garden of Eden" in its flowered glory and at once made the comparison with the looks of our chamber 49 years ago when there scarcely was a female of any breed of the human race with us, only one here and there stuck away in a committee room as clerk for one-half doz. committees.
>
> Our House and Senate chambers 49 years ago can justly be named "*Lockers*" now used to freeze meat, pork, fish, etc. Our desks could be called drawers where we sat frozen stiff, physically speaking, with our legs stretched over the top of the desk, to prolong the blood circulation in the lower portions of our makeup.

These abbreviated quotations from members closes with Ex-governor Dan Turner's telegram of March 3, 1941, to Ora Williams as Secretary:

> Ora: Sincere congratulations to the Pioneers who made laws in an early period. May they carry to the members of the General Assembly the message of faith in representative government which cannot fail as long as elected representatives of the people in state and nation remain true to the concepts of our fathers: equal opportunity to all special privilege to none.

Deceased Members

Notices Received Since Session of 1939

(Date Given is Year of First Service)

A. B. Funk	S	22-27 inc.	1888
F. M. Kyte	R	23	1890
John P. Hornish	R	23-24	1890
Cassius C. Dowell	R	25-26; S 29-33 inc. Congressman,	1894
J. D. Morrison	R	25-26	1894
Beryl F. Carroll	S	26-27; Auditor of State; Governor	1896
M. K. Whelan	R	26-27	1896
E. P. Barringer	R	28	1898
Marlin J. Sweeley	R	29	1902
J. C. Flenniken	R	29-30-31	1902
D. Davenport	R	29	1902
R. J. Bixby	R	31-32	1906
Benjamin F. Felt	R	32-34 inc.	1908
Frank W. Russell	R	34	1911
Herbert A. Huff	R	34-35	1911
Walter P. Jensen	R	35	1913
John F. Herman	R	36	1915
C. Orville Lee	R	36-37	1915
Presley L. Kepple	R	36-37-38	1915
J. H. Lewis	R	37	1917
H. W. Flenniken	R	37-38	1917
Perry C. Holdoegel	S	37-40 inc.	1917
James B. Weaver	R	37-38-39	1917
James E. Larsen	R	38	1919
Wm. P. Sutherland	R	38	1919
Wm. C. Windett	R	38	1919
J. C. Sterling	R	38-39	1919
Frank C. Young	R	38-39	1919
L. V. Carter	R	39-40	1921
W. C. Scott	R	39-40	1921
Cyrenus Cole		Congressman	1921-31